

Elena at Full Employment Council 21st Century Healthcare Works Program

Elena Lindstedt is a 19-year-old female and a first-generation college student who came to the Full Employment Council in Independence, Missouri, seeking assistance with classroom training and full-time employment. The Full Employment Council offers a Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program, funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance.

Elena had previously worked in a nursing assistant position but needed the Enhanced certification to advance in the industry. She had a strong desire to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) with additional certifications to further her career.

Elena worked with her counselor at the Full Employment Council to determine which classroom training program would be the best fit for her. Together, they found there was a CNA Enhanced (CNA+) class offered by MEDS (Medical Education Development & Support, Inc.) in Independence, Missouri. Elena successfully completed this program through MEDS in January 2013, receiving state certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant with additional certifications such as Level I Medication Aide and Insulin Medication. She also received CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED (automated external defibrillators) certification and training in specialized behavioral needs and memory and dementia care.

With the assistance of her counselor, Elena began working to find employment in the CNA field. She attended the John Knox Village retirement community's hiring event, and the company had a strong desire to hire her. Elena began an eight-week on-the-job training working as a CNA+ in February 2013, making \$10.75 per hour. Currently she makes more money than she previously had before when she worked in the health care as a Nurse's Aide.

To date, Elena has received assistance with tuition, transportation, career guidance, and job search activities to help her gain a credential and find employment in the field she desired. The HPOG program helped her advance in her career and move toward a sustainable wage.

Haydee at Full Employment Council 21st Century Healthcare Works Program

A single mother of two, Haydee was attempting to re-enter the workforce after having been unemployed for more than a year. With the initial goal of becoming a Registered Nurse (RN), she came to the Full Employment Council (FEC) seeking assistance with classroom training and employment. However, discussions with her counselor revealed that immediate employment was a high priority, so Haydee's employment plan was updated to reflect a shorter training program, a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class with Metropolitan Community College (MCC) at Penn Valley. When Haydee learned that FEC was also holding a Patient Care Technician (PCT)—CNA Plus cohort at the same school, she requested to join this class in progress to earn additional credentials. After networking with the educational partners at MCC Penn Valley, FEC staff was able to negotiate Haydee's entry into the additional program. She subsequently completed the PCT course and began working with staff to find employment in her field. Haydee attended the Bi-State Healthcare Hiring event coordinated by FEC where she spoke with several healthcare employers who were interested in her skill set.

On September 8, 2012, FEC staff received a thank you note from Haydee explaining that she had accepted a position with Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

Through the HPOG program, Haydee received supports in the form of tuition, uniforms and supplies, counseling, and job search activities that helped her earn credentials and find employment. Based on the determination they've seen in Haydee, FEC staff believe nothing can stop her from achieving her long-term goal of becoming an RN.